

DOE Weekly Field Memo – March 3, 2010

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National Center of Education and the Economy (NCEE) State Board Examination Consortium

Audience: Superintendents, High School Principals

On February 17, eight states announced they will join with the NCEE to make available to schools in their states internationally recognized instructional systems and examinations. The goal is to dramatically increase the number of students who leave high school ready to succeed in college. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont will work with NCEE through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improve the performance of high school students in these eight states by adopting powerful instructional systems that actually set the international standards. More information on an introductory meeting for superintendents and high school principals with NCEE President Marc Tucker in April will be forthcoming. Following this introduction, the department will seek schools who are interested in being demonstration sites for this work. For more information visit <http://www.ncee.org>.

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner, at (802) 828-3813 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us

National Common Core Standards Initiative

Audience: All

Vermont is one of 48 states that signed a Memorandum of Agreement in 2009 to work with CCSSO and the NGA in the development and adoption of a package of common standards K-12, culminating in College and Career-readiness Standards in mathematics, reading, writing, speaking and listening. This initiative is scheduled to finalize these standards in the early spring. For more information visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#ccsso>.

Contact: Gail Taylor, Director of Standards & Assessment, at (802) 828-5158 or gail.taylor@state.vt.us

Temporary Shut Down of NECAP Report Web site

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Other Users of NECAP Results

The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Analysis and Reporting Web site located at <http://iservices.measuredprogress.org> will be shut down from 2:00 p.m. on March 10 to 9:00 a.m. on March 11. Measured Progress will be performing routine maintenance on the site and will be updating data files from the fall 2009 administration of the assessment. Vermont school administrators are advised to check any custom reports generated on the site prior to March 11 to ensure accuracy.

Contact: Michael Hock, Assessment Director, at (802) 828-3115 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Professional Development: BEST Summer Institute

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, All Educators, and Families

This year's BEST Summer Institute, June 21-24, invites school teams of educators, family members, community and human services providers to share and learn strategies for improving and strengthening

the complex educational supports and systems in our schools and communities. Expect to learn about new programs, curricula, practices or activities that emphasize positive, research-based strategies and supports for all of our students. For more information and to register visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#best>

DOE contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us

UVM contact: Anne Dubie at anne.dubie@uvm.edu

Professional Development: Two are Better than One: Collaborative Instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs)

Audience: This (free) training is open to K-12 educators from any school setting in Vermont (not limited to ESL teachers). Due to workshop topic, preference is given to teams of at least two people.

Dates/Locations: The same workshop will be offered at two different locations on two different dates: (1) Thursday, May 20th at Lamoille Area Professional Development Academy (LAPDA) in Montpelier and; (2) Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, VT.

Focus: The workshop will explore the why, what and how of collaboration for ELLs in standards-based school environments. After an exploratory examination of personal collaboration experiences, participants will learn about and engage in activities related to a collaboration cycle process for promoting academic success. Challenges, effectiveness, and responsibilities of collaboration will be explored, with the purpose of participants defining their most appropriate approach for collaboratively instructing ELLs.

For more information and to register online, go to:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#ell>. **Registration Deadline: April 26, 2010**

DOE Contacts: For questions about the workshop, contact Jim McCobb at (802) 828-0185 or james.mccobb@state.vt.us; for questions about registration, contact Lucille Chicoine at (802) 828-5922 or lucille.chicoine@state.vt.us

Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Team Implementation Checklist (TIC) – DUE March 1-15, 2010

Audience: PBS Coordinators/Coaches, Superintendents, Special Educators, Special Education Administrators

This is a reminder that it is time to enter your PBS Team Implementation Checklist (TIC). This should be completed as part of your March Leadership Team meeting. December, March and May are the months for on-line submission. To complete the TIC go to PBS Team Implementation Checklist (TIC) Directions and Instructions: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_ess/pbs.html#checklist

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us

FY-2011 Estimated IDEA-B Allocations

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators and Business Managers

These are the estimated FY-2011 IDEA-B flow through allocations based on the estimated federal grant award. There are two allocations – one for the Basic grant which can be used for providing special education services for eligible students from ages 3 through 21 as well as Child Find for ages birth - 21 and the PreSchool grant which can be used for providing special education services for eligible children ages 3 - 5. The calculations are based on the updated student counts but the federal award amount is still estimated at this point. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_finance_sped.html#estimated to view the allocations.

Contact: Margaret Schelley, Special Education Finance, at (802) 828-5119 or margaret.schelley@state.vt.us

Real World Design Challenge 2010-11 Seeks Leader for Program

Audience: All

In an effort to capitalize on Vermont's two-year streak at sending a team to the National Real World Design Championship, this grant program, valued at \$75,000, seeks an entity or individual to promote the Real World Design Challenge in schools across Vermont. Said entity would need to develop a comprehensive plan for trainings over the summer of 2010, and be able to visit participating schools through the fall and spring of this next school year to promote and encourage the teams. Choosing of a panel of judges, coordinating with national organizers, and helping to build strong STEM awareness here in Vermont are the over-arching goals of the program. Best applicants will have some knowledge of the software being used and the principles being explored around aviation engineering. Retired engineers, retired teachers that are familiar with engineering principles, higher education groups, would all be

qualified applicants. Please encourage retiring teachers in the Science and Math fields to consider this application. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_edtech.html#leader to apply.

Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

2010-11 Supplemental Educational Services Providers Application

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) requires Title I schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three or more years to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to eligible students. SES are additional services such as tutoring which are outside the regular school day. Only providers who have been approved by the Vermont Department of Education can become SES providers. People or entities (which can include supervisory unions/districts) who wish to become approved SES providers must fill out an application and return it by 4 p.m. on **May 1, 2010**. To access this application go to: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/nclba/supplemental_services.html#application.

Contact: Kathy Blanchard, School Improvement Coordinator, at (802) 828-5404 or kathy.blanchard@state.vt.us

Reminder: Memo from the Commissioner: Letter of Support/Commitment on Broadband Connectivity

Audience: Technology Coordinators, Superintendents, Principals

The department is currently working with a number of state agencies to submit, on behalf of all K-12 schools, an application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This program will provide significant ARRA funding for the development of robust broadband resources to community anchor institutions including K-12 schools. This memo from Commissioner Armando Vilaseca provides some instruction, and is accompanied by a template that can be used to edit, print and mail back to the department. The letter should be signed by the superintendent and returned by **March 8th**. It is crucial that we have as many letters returned as possible. View the complete letter from Commissioner Vilaseca, as well as a sample letter, at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#broadband>.

Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

From the U.S. Department of Education:

ED Monthly Conference Call

Audience: State and Local Elected Officials, School Board Members, and Superintendents

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has affirmed his commitment to a continued conversation with critical stakeholders in the education reform process. The U.S. Department of Education is honoring this stated commitment with monthly conference calls. Most recently, senior officials discussed the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal. For the next call, Tuesday, March 9, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET, Secretary Duncan and senior officers will provide a quick update on three American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant programs: School Improvement Grants (SIGs), the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), and the Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund. Also, staff will introduce the Department's Open Innovation Portal, where funders, innovators, and practitioners can spotlight areas of need, propose and suggest improvements to solutions, and fund, implement, and improve these solutions in and outside of the classroom. The Open Innovation Portal is at <https://innovation.ed.gov/>.

DATE: Tuesday, March 9; TIME: 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET; Call-In #: (888) 989-8174; Passcode: EDUCATION (given verbally)

Contact: To RSVP contact Adam.Honeysett@ed.gov by COB **Monday, March 8**, if you or a designated representative will be able to join the call.

From the Vermont Department of Health:

Poison Prevention Week

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, School Nurse and School Health Contacts

The week of March 14-20, 2010 has been designated Poison Prevention Week. Schools are asked to dedicate time to review the six 24-hour emergency hotline numbers. Report your school's activities and get a certificate of participation by visiting <http://www.nnepc.org> and click on "Report an R U Prepared? Event." The Northern New England Poison Center and emergency hotline agencies in Vermont have developed a personal emergency number promotion program titled "R U Prepared?" With the assistance

of the Vermont Department of Health, these hotline agencies are working to ensure that all students and staff are prepared for emergencies. To accomplish this, we are asking that your school dedicate a day during National Poison Prevention Week, March 14-20, 2010 to inform students about each agency and allow them to pre-program their cell phones with these essential numbers. School Nurses will be mailed these materials directly from the Health Department.

Contact: Gayle B. Finkelstein MSRN, Poison Prevention Educator, Northern New England Poison Center, Fletcher Allen Health Care at (802) 847-2393 or Gayle.Finkelstein@vtmednet.org

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.